



May 5 Open Studio, p.9



More eclipse chasers, p.16

## Returning Home: Greenbelters Are Not Your Typical Boomerang Kids

by Erica Johns

*Part Two of a Two-Part Story*

Marc Siegel, Heather Hart, Eva Garin, Hopi Auerbach, Lesley Kash, Dorothy Dobson and Jonathan Murray all moved away from their Greenbelt childhood homes, though some didn't go far.

Siegel moved from Maplewood Court to then-Springhill Lake Apartments and College Park while attending the University of Maryland; his first homes with wife Diane were in GHI and on Rosewood Drive. Around 2000, father Harold Siegel died and his stepmother sold them the house.

Hart left her Ridge Road GHI home for school and work, returning to help father Jerry care for mother Marie. Hart and her father now live there together.

Garin left Lakeside Drive for college, graduate school and married life in Bowie. After father Robert died, mother Sonia moved to Bethesda and sold her house to Eva and husband Jim Cowan in 1987.

Auerbach moved from her



Lesley Kash and husband Hank Meyer added a large, bright room over the carport, with exterior brick that closely matches the original.

Ridge Road GHI home to D.C. in 1973 for a job, tiny apartment and disco dancing four nights a week, later living in Germany in the early 1980s. After living in Cold War-divided Germany amid World War II damage, she returned to Greenbelt to live with dad Bob Auerbach, grateful that her hometown wasn't destroyed, and she could travel freely without fear of arrest.

Kash left Woodland Way in 1976, later living around the world with husband Hank, and her parents and sister moved elsewhere in Greenbelt. In the early 2000s, the house went up

for sale while Lesley and Hank were visiting D.C. Sister Kim Kash saw the sign going up and called, catching Lesley and Hank at a museum. They rushed home and made an offer, no decision, it was fate. The seller was charmed and their story trumped several better offers. After four long years of renting the house out while working abroad, they finally came home in 2007.

Dobson briefly moved to Adelphi while attending the University of Maryland. She couldn't wait to get out of the house when she and Norm Dobson married in 1984 and moved to University Square Apartments, as her parents prepared to sell and move to Ohio. Father Fred found

See **HOME**, page 12

## Planning Department Budget And Ongoing Projects Review

by Cathie Meetre

With very little council comment on its FY 2025 budget, the city's Department of Planning and Community Development got the opportunity to strut its stuff and showcase its activities.

The city council worksession of April 3, as well as dealing with the T-Mobile temporary antenna (story to come), introduced the draft FY 2025 Department of Planning and Development budget, which is a reduction from the current year (FY 2024). Introduced by City Manager Josué Salmerón, the department's budget is \$1,393,100, a \$12,400 reduction from the FY 2024 budget.

The total cost of the department to the city is reduced, even though overall expenditures will have increased, because the department expects to generate more revenue through increased fees for services.

A supervisory inspector position is funded for six months only, and Terry Hruby, Director of Planning and Community Development, anticipates hiring in

January. Previous incumbent Gilberto Cabrera was promoted and his prior position remains open until he completes his six-month probation in the new position. Salmerón explained that this is a standard cost-saving measure where a vacancy can be held open for a period of time without negative effects on performance.

### Training Investment

Additional on-the-job and classroom training being provided to technical and inspection staff

See **BUDGET**, page 10

### What Goes On

**Monday, April 22, 7:30 p.m.,** Council Meeting: First Budget Public Hearing  
**Wednesday, April 24, 7:30 p.m.,** Council Budget Worksession: Recreation/Museum

See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar at [greenbeltnmd.gov](http://greenbeltnmd.gov) for more information.

## Some Greenbelters Search For Best in Eclipse Totality

One of the News Review's favorite astronomers, Jerry Bonnell, was in the line of totality in Vienna, Illinois. Bonnell tells us it is pronounced VI-en-na, (VI emphasized and rhyming with "Hi") and speculates that this may be to avoid confusion with a city of the same name in Austria. He took the photo above of the sun with the corona glowing around the disc from "a beautiful city park with an eclipse party going on, food trucks, live music and bathrooms."

Bonnell works in high energy astrophysics at Goddard Space Flight Center for the University of Maryland, and is one of the two professional astronomers who created and remain responsible for Astronomy Picture of the Day ([apod.nasa.gov](http://apod.nasa.gov)). He also volunteers as one of our two regular photo editors at the News Review.

The lower photo was taken by Jeff Jones in Akron, Ohio, his hometown. Jones is Bonnell's colleague and co-photo editor. His photo shows Bailey's beads – in the first moments at



PHOTO BY JERRY BONNELL

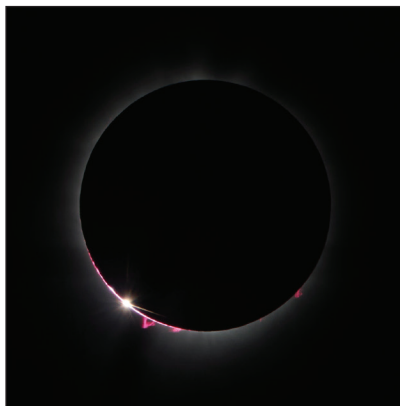


PHOTO BY JEFFREY ALLEN JONES

the end of totality, these small beads of light at the bottom left of the moon's shadow are made by the mountains on the edge of the moon's disc and the sunlight leaking through the valleys like light through lace.

Only the best for our readers. See more eclipse photos on page 16.

## From Abused to Evidence to Now Adoptable: Apollo Seeks Home

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Apollo is only one year and four months old. He's spent most of his life at Greenbelt Animal Shelter, where he arrived last July. He had been caged and starved in a Greenbelt apartment and was days away from death when he was discovered and rescued by Greenbelt officers last summer. In the following months he was unadoptable, housed at the shelter, but living evidence in one of the most horrific animal abuse cases Greenbelt Animal Control has had to prosecute.

Officers originally responded to a home in Greenbelt last July when a resident called for them to pick up a deceased dog. They couldn't tell at first that the "flat black" remains in the cage had been a dog. The owner claimed the dog had been fed the previous night but couldn't produce any food or empty packages. Then, as officers asked more questions, they heard the sound of three other dogs. Bruno, Zeus and Apollo were caged in another room.

Bruno had a shiny coat, trimmed nails and seemed well-cared for, but Zeus and Apollo were near death, said Ricardo

Dennis of the Greenbelt Police Department. Apollo and Zeus were completely emaciated, explained Walter Rivas-Flores, Greenbelt Animal Control's Su-

pervisor. "It's hard to really describe what it's like when you see an animal that skinny. They

See **APOLLO**, page 15



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Apollo with Animal Shelter Supervisor Walter Rivas-Flores



# Letters to the Editor

## Sustainable Actions For Earth Day

April 22 is Earth Day. The American Red Cross is encouraging everyone to take sustainable action and participate in activities for Earth Day and the whole month of April.

Below are some of my actions thus far.

Replaced single-use water bottles with a reusable one that has markings to encourage optimum water consumption for the day.

With the pleasant spring temps, the thermostat is set off.

Unplugged appliances such as the air fryer when not in use.

Laundry after peak electricity use hours. Wash in minimum time and cold water, using auto-sensing water level to ensure that just the right amount of water is used to fully clean laundry.

Walked the neighborhood, during which time observed flowers beginning to bloom as April showers bring May flowers.

Observed that to encourage recycling the city has installed recycling bins around the Center.

Ran into a local band



Chalya Lar walking the neighborhood for Earth Day and Month

enjoying the gorgeous weather with an outdoor practice ahead of an upcoming event.

Did not miss “birdie” perched on top of the awning checking out what was going on with, “the bird’s eye view.”

Walked the neighborhood after checking out the variety of locally-grown produce at the Co-op.

On my way back, I ran into someone charging an electric vehicle at the EV charging station.

Chalya Lar



### greenbelt CINEMA

Greenbelt Cinema  
129 Centerway  
301-329-2034  
[www.greenbeltcinema.org](http://www.greenbeltcinema.org)  
Members Always \$6.50!  
Member kids are always FREE!  
Adults \$9, Kids \$6,  
Senior/Student/Military \$8  
All shows before 5 PM:  
Adults \$7, Kids \$5

**OC = Open Captions**  
**CC = Closed Captions**  
**DVS = Descriptive Video Service**

### SHOWTIMES:

APRIL 19th to 25th

#### The Teachers' Lounge

(PG-13) (2023) (98 mins)  
German w/ English subtitles  
**Screen 1** - Main Auditorium  
Sat. 8:00 PM  
Sun. 12:15 PM  
Mon. 5:15 PM  
Tues. 5:45 PM  
Wed. 5:45 PM  
**Screen 2** - The Screening Room  
Fri. 8:15 PM  
Thurs. 8:15 PM

#### Perfect Days

(PG) (2023) (124 mins)  
Japanese w/ English subtitles  
**Screen 1** - Main Auditorium  
Fri. 8:00 PM  
Sat. 5:15 PM  
Tues. 8:00 PM  
**Screen 2** - The Screening Room  
Sun. 2:00 PM  
Mon. 5:00 PM  
Wed. 7:45 PM  
Thurs. 5:30 PM

#### Io Capitano

(NR) (20243) (122 mins)  
Wolof w/ English subtitles  
**Screen 1** - Main Auditorium  
Fri. 5:00 PM  
Sun. 5:15 PM  
Wed. 8:00 PM  
Thurs. 4:15 PM  
**Screen 2** - The Screening Room  
Sat. 7:45 PM  
Mon. 2:15 PM  
Tues. 7:45 PM

#### Civil War (R) (CC) (DVS) (2024)

(109 mins)  
**Screen 1** - Main Auditorium  
Sun. 2:45 PM  
Mon. 2:30 PM  
**Screen 2** - The Screening Room  
Fri. 5:15 PM  
Sat. 5:00 PM  
Tues. 5:15 PM  
Wed. 5:15 PM  
Thurs. 3:00 PM

#### Salomé (NR) (1953) (103 mins)

In partnership with the Greenbelt Arts Center!  
**Screen 2** - The Screening Room  
Sun. 5:00 PM

#### Barbie (PG-13) (CC) (DVS) (2023)

(114 mins)  
**Screen 1** - Main Auditorium  
Thurs. 7:00 PM



Celebrate Earth Day Monday, April 22. Participating in the curbside pilot compost program means these scraps go into the compost bin.

## Correction

The two photos attributed to Lois Rosado in last week’s article about the Learn 2 Earn program were in fact courtesy of LaToya Fisher.

## Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.



# Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All letters to the editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified ads and camera-ready display ads.

Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.

- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.  
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 8 p.m.  
Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email.  
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the municipal building.



All this and more on the GATe channel this week! Check [greenbeltaccess.tv](http://greenbeltaccess.tv) for the full broadcast schedule, and visit [Greenbelt Access Television on YouTube](#) for new video productions.



# Obituaries

## Aphrodite Matsakis



Aphrodite Matsakis

Aphrodite Theoni Matsakis died on March 17, 2024, after a challenging struggle with pancreatic cancer that ravaged her body but not her spirit. She was cared for by her daughters and grandchildren – sharing her love of dance and all things Greek. She was born on May 31, 1947.

Matsakis was a psychotherapist, a confidant, a caring friend and an inspiration. Hers was a life of passion and achievement. A prolific author and lecturer, a loving mother and grandmother, Aphrodite loved to dance – whether the twist, salsa, the Cretan Pentozali or the Karpathian Sousta. She especially enjoyed dancing with the Greenbelt International Dance Group and attended their Sunday dance circles at the Greenbelt Community Center even during chemo.

Aphrodite is survived by brothers Demetrios (Cindy) and Elias (Joanne); her daughters Theodora (Steve Steckler) Scarato and Magdalena (Marc Seiden) Scarato; and grandchildren Sophia, Magdalena, Rosario and Niko.



## CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT MASS

Sunday 10:00 a.m.  
City Council Room  
25 Crescent Rd

ALL ARE WELCOME!

OR - Join us on ZOOM!  
For ZOOM link:  
CCG1985+owneregroups.io

## Greenbelt BAPTIST CHURCH

Christ-centered  
Biblical  
& Reformed

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am

Sunday School 9:15am

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm

101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt, MD  
www.greenbeltbaptist.org



## Alanna Marie Rall



Alanna Rall

Alanna Rall died on Sunday, April 7. She was 24 years old. Alanna grew up in 14 Court Hillside and spent many happy years there playing with her neighborhood friends. As a third-generation Greenbelter, Alanna appreciated and enjoyed the time spent in her community.

One of her fondest memories was participating in the Miss Greenbelt Pageant when she was seven. Pageant staff could hear the laughter coming from the interview room as she charmed them with her quick wit and humorous tales. She took home the title of Miss Congeniality, an award voted on by the contestants. It was based on who they felt most embodied friendship and kindness.

Her compassion, sharp wit and intelligence were evident throughout her life. She graduated from Eleanor Roosevelt High School. Alanna loved getting to know people and always showed true

concern and empathy for those who were struggling or just needed a friendly smile. Alanna also had a deep love for animals and was excited when she moved into her own apartment and adopted her two cats Spunks and Buff.

Alanna is survived by her parents Charles and Nancy Rall, her brother Kevin Rall and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. Her family requests that donations in her name be made to the Greenbelt Animal Shelter. They would also like to thank everyone for the outpouring of love, meals and donations. Plans for a memorial service have not been set at this time.

## Marie Christy

Died April 1, 2024  
Funeral Sunday, April 21,  
9:30 a.m.  
At St. Hugh of Grenoble  
Catholic Church

## Obituaries

The News Review publishes obituaries of Greenbelt residents, past or present.

You write it or we will if you prefer. We try to include information about participation in various activities and organizations, where the person lived and something about the family. A photograph and service information should be included. There is no charge.

## Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt  
Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors  
Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)  
301-474-9410  
Pastor Evelyn Romero  
Worship Service, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.  
Celebrate hope with us.

## St. John's Episcopal Church

11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704  
301-937-4292 [www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org](http://www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org)

Welcomes you each Sunday for  
Worship & Sunday School  
at 10:00 AM

Greenbelt Community Church

One Hillside Road

We are an Open and Affirming Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Join Us Sunday 10:15 AM for Worship and Church School

[www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD](https://www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD)  
[www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org](http://www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org)

## ST. HUGH OF GRENABLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am\*, Sat 9am\*
- Sunday Mass:
  - Sat vigil 5pm\*
  - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm – 4pm.  
Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

\*Live streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.

## CELEBRATE WITH US

135 Crescent Rd.  
[www.sthughofgrenoble.org](http://www.sthughofgrenoble.org)

## April 30 Is Deadline For Craig Scholarship

The David Craig Memorial Scholarship Fund (DCMSF) Board chooses an Eleanor Roosevelt High School senior each year to receive a scholarship for tuition assistance in continuing higher education. The value of the award is currently \$12,000 paid over four years (\$3,000 per year). To be considered for this year's scholarship, fill out and submit the application form through [davidcraigmsf.blogspot.com](http://davidcraigmsf.blogspot.com) by April 30.

The award recipient is recognized for academic standing, with greater emphasis given to those qualities that David possessed: active involvement in religious community, leadership in civic community and participation in individual and team sports.

The DCMSF formed in 1986 in response to David Craig's untimely death in February 1984. Its first recipient was chosen from the Eleanor Roosevelt class of 1987 and the scholarship award has continued at David's alma mater for the past 38 years.

## Writers Meet On April 19

The monthly meeting of the Greenbelt Writers Group will be held at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 19 in the Community Center. All interested writers are invited. Open readings will be held and members will continue discussion of a potential joint writing project. For more information, email Barbara Ford at [barb.ford@comcast.net](mailto:barb.ford@comcast.net).

## Our Neighbors

Our sympathies to the family and friends of Aphrodite Matsakis, who now dances in heaven as she danced so exuberantly on earth.

Condolences also to the family and friends (human and furred) of the ever-congenial Alanna Rall.

And condolences to the family and friends of long-time Greenbelter Marie Christy.

Send details of your news to [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).

## Public Works Offers Styrofoam Recycling

On Saturday, April 27, from 9 a.m. to noon, Public Works will hold Electronics and Styrofoam Recycling at the Public Works Yard, 555 Crescent Road.

Electronics Recycling accepted items include CPUs, monitors, keyboards, mice, printers, laptops, recording equipment, speakers, scanners, surge protectors, cameras, telephones, radios, DVD players, VCRs, fax machines, wires and power cords.

No alkaline batteries, CFLs or tube TVs will be accepted.

Expanded polystyrene recycling includes white, block Styrofoam #6. New items include egg cartons and food trays.

No paint recycling in April. Any questions can be addressed to Greenbelt Public Works.



“Regard man as a mine rich in gems of inestimable value. Education can, alone, cause it to reveal its treasures, and enable mankind to benefit therefrom.” – Bahá’u’lláh



## Greenbelt Bahá'í Community

[www.greenbeltbahais.org](http://www.greenbeltbahais.org)

The Bible Says...

But to this day whenever Moses is read,  
a veil lies over their heart;  
but whenever a person turns to the Lord,  
the veil is taken away.  
2 Corinthians 3:15-16



## Sunday Worship Services

10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School  
(66 Ridge Rd.)

[MCFcc.org](http://MCFcc.org)

## Mishkan Torah Congregation



10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770  
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm

Saturday morning services at 10:00am

Offering hybrid services, online and in-person activities

For further information, call (301) 474-4223 [www.mishkantorah.org](http://www.mishkantorah.org)

Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

## Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church



3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi  
Phone: 301-937-3666 [www.pbuuc.org](http://www.pbuuc.org)

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community



April 21, 2024 at 3:00 pm

## How to be Afraid

Rev. Ann Kadlecsek with Liturgist Rene McDonald

There are many things to be afraid of, and not all of our fears can be dispelled. How might we live our best lives even though we are afraid?

Streaming to our Facebook page, on Zoom and in person at 3:00 at:  
University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD





# City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

## GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING

Monday, April 22, 2024 at 7:30 pm

### ORGANIZATION

Call to Order  
Roll Call  
Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag  
Petitions and Requests  
Consent Agenda - Approval of Staff Recommendations (Items on the Consent Agenda [marked by \*] will be approved as recommended by staff, subject to removal from the Consent Agenda by Council.)  
Approval of Agenda and Additions

### COMMUNICATIONS

**Presentations**  
- Public Hearing - FY 2025 Proposed Budget  
- MCRT Presentation  
\* Minutes of Council Meetings  
- Administrative Reports  
\* Committee Reports  
- Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability Report #2024-02 Biofuels for City Vehicles

### LEGISLATION

- Resolution to Permit Concurrent Membership on Multiple Advisory Boards and Committee Volunteers  
-2nd Reading and Adoption  
- An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Greenbelt, Maryland Authorizing the Acquisition by Negotiated Purchase of Certain Real Property Known as Parcel 84 (TAX ID NO. 2397727), Containing 22.09 Acres, at a Purchase Price of One Hundred Ninety-Six Thousand Dollars (\$196,000), Plus Incidental Costs, for a Public Purpose  
-1st Reading

### OTHER BUSINESS

- Purchase for One (1) Public Works Box Truck 2024  
- Community Center Dance Studio Annex (room 12) - Award of Contract Recommendation  
- DEI Report Recommendations and Action Plan  
- Council Activities  
- Council Reports  
\* Meetings  
\* Stakeholders  
\* Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability Report # 2024-02  
- Ratifying Contract for Fuel Management System for City Vehicles  
\* Re/Appointment to Advisory Board

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email [banderson@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:banderson@greenbeltmd.gov).

## MEETINGS FOR APRIL 22 - 26

Tuesday, April 23 at 7 pm, **GREEN ACES & GREEN TEAM**, On the Agenda: Biodiesel Update, Mow Less April, Bottle Bill Update, Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance Update, Curbside Compost Pickup Grant Updates, Alice Ferguson Foundation's Potomac Watershed Cleanup, Electronics & Styrofoam Recycling, Shredding Event

Tuesday, April 23 at 7 pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**, On the Agenda: March Minutes, Planning for Student Awards

Wednesday, April 24 at 7:30 pm, **BUDGET WORK SESSION - RECREATION/MUSEUM**

Thursday, April 25 at 7 pm, **FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD**, On the Agenda: Planning for Green Man Festival Outreach, Possible Trail Reroutes/Closures, Stewardship Updates & Discussion, Greenbriar Preserve Outreach

In advance, the hearing impaired are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email [banderson@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:banderson@greenbeltmd.gov). This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar).

## NATIONAL BIKE TO WORK DAY 2024

May 17, 6:30 - 8:30 AM

Parking Lot of Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center, 101 Centerway

Commuter Connections and the Washington Area Bicyclist Association invites you to join over 16,000 area commuters for a celebration of bicycling as a fun, eco-friendly, low-cost commuting option and it provides both physical and mental health benefits. The Greenbelt Pit Stop will be one of 100 Pit stops in the regional area.

Register at [biketoworkmetrodc.org](http://biketoworkmetrodc.org);  
Pit Stop Manager: Di Quynn Reno, [dquynreno@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:dquynreno@greenbeltmd.gov) (240) 542-2053.



## OFFICIAL NOTICE

In accordance with Section 3-305(b)(10)(ii) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland, a closed session of the Greenbelt City Council will be held on Monday, April 22, 2024, immediately following the Regular Council Meeting, in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building: 1) to discuss public security, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to the public or to public security, including the development and implementation of emergency plans.

The purpose of this meeting is 1) to discuss public security, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to the public of public security, including the development and implementation of emergency plans.

\* The public may attend the Regular Council Meeting prior to the closed session and observe the vote of the Council to move into the closed session on Monday, April 22, 2024.

Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

## ELECTRONICS & STYROFOAM RECYCLING

Saturday, April 27, 9 am - 12 pm  
Public Works Facility, 555 Crescent

**Electronics Recycling** - Accepted: CPUs, monitors, keyboards, mice, printers, laptops, recording equipment, speakers, scanners, surge protectors, cameras, telephones, radios, DVD players, VCRs, fax machines, wires, power cords.  
NO - ALCALINE BATTERIES or CFLs; NO - TUBE TVs.

**Expanded Polystyrene** - White, block Styrofoam #6. NEW: egg cartons and food trays!

NO PAINT RECYCLING IN APRIL.

Contact Public Works at (301) 474-8004.

## EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

APRIL 20, 10 AM - 1 PM  
Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent Road

Be a part of the community effort to rejuvenate the forest understory in Buddy Attick Park. Volunteers will work with Public Works staff to remove invasive species and install native trees and shrubs in the understory.

Register at <https://ow.ly/Uukm50RhZNM> or by email at [kdriscoll@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:kdriscoll@greenbeltmd.gov).



## CURRENT CARES PROGRAMS

CARES is happy to provide the following programs FREE of charge:

- Dementia Friendly America Webinars, April - June.
- Emergency Diaper Distribution. Must register. See ad on this page.
- Produce Distribution at the Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East, 15 Crescent Road  
Upcoming Dates: April 18, May 16, from 1 - 3 pm
- Produce Distribution at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Ln (Greenbelt West Residents Only)  
Upcoming Dates: April 18, May 16, from 3 - 4:15 pm

For descriptions and information, visit [www.greenbeltmd.gov/CARESPROGRAMS](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/CARESPROGRAMS).

## WALKING FOR WELLNESS 2024

Saturday, May 18, 9 am  
Buddy Attick Park Lake

May is observed as Mental Health Awareness Month. Help the Greenbelt Police Department raise awareness and provide support for those in our community. Join us for a delightful spring walk around Buddy Attick Park Lake. Enjoy the fresh air and other smiling faces.

Vendors for this event should arrive by 8 am.

The Wellness Walk will begin at 9 am, but walkers and runners are encouraged to start arriving by 8:30 am.

Sponsored by the Greenbelt Police Department.  
550 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD. (301) 474-7200.



## FEATURED PET

APOLLO

Adopt Me Today!  
Call (301) 474-6124.

Hey friends! My name is Apollo and I am a 71lb, 16-month-old male Hound mix full of love, who is looking for a second chance at life. I am a very sweet, dignified and gentle giant who enjoys lounging and affection. I also like playing fetch and going on long walks, and I've recently started swim lessons!

Sadly, I was neglected before animal control saved me, so I'll need someone who can be patient and understanding. Luckily a temporary foster home gave me the chance to regain my health and show off what a good boy I am. Now that I'm back living at the shelter, I'm eager to find my forever home.

Do you have the space in your home and heart for me? I'm ready to be your loyal companion. If I sound like a good match for you, please ask about me today! Call (301) 474-6124 or email [animalcontrol@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:animalcontrol@greenbeltmd.gov)!



## GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar).



## COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the **Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, the Youth Advisory Committee on Education, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Elections, Community Relations Advisory Board, Employee Relations Advisory Board, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, or the Park and Recreation Advisory Board** and make a difference in Greenbelt!

By dedicating your time and expertise, you will help shape the future of Greenbelt and create a community that values the voices of all its residents. Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today!

Call (301) 474-8000.

## ARTFUL AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

Create Paper Cutouts Inspired by Henri Matisse with Artist Barbara Combs

Sunday, April 14, 1 - 3 pm,  
Springhill Lake Recreation Center,  
6101 Cherrywood Ln -  
Details <https://bit.ly/3VfZ0Lq>.

## ARTFUL AFTERNOON SPRAY AND PAINT

Sunday, May 5, 1 - 4 pm, Greenbelt Community Center.

Spray paint art workshop, Art Studio Open House and Sale, plus a Chinese dance concert!

Info & Sign-up: <https://bit.ly/4axwZn4>.

## WELCOME KIT STUFFING PARTY

Thank you for all your donations for the 2024 Welcome Kit! We will be hosting a stuffing party at the Municipal Building located 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 on

THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2-4 PM.

Contact [candrews@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:candrews@greenbeltmd.gov) for more information & to attend!

## BRING YOUR OWN BAG ORDINANCE

Effective January 1, 2024, the City of Greenbelt's Bring Your Own Bag bill aims to reduce single-use plastic bag waste and litter in our local waterways and tributary system.

The Bring Your Own Bag bill will prohibit a retail establishment from providing a plastic carryout bag to shoppers and can charge at least 10 cents for each paper bag provided to a customer at the point of sale.

Visit [www.greenbeltmd.gov/BYOBag](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/BYOBag).





Review

# A Man of No Importance Shares Some Very Important Messages

by Melanie Iverson

On April 12, A Man of No Importance opened at Greenbelt Arts Center. This musical is a compilation of the exhilarating fun that good musicals produce and, at the same time, the storyline is ever evolving to finally reveal the challenging truth that the main character fought most of his life to avoid knowing.

The play follows the story of a cheery bus conductor, completely in love with the arts – including drama, poetry and especially Oscar Wilde’s work – on his winding path to self-recognition. His truth was so hard to face that he buried it by focusing on the surface world he lived and worked in.

He is a sweet, caring man who is a friend to all and a respected director of a local theater group, housed in his church. His immersion in the Catholic Church and adherence to its rules keeps him safe from listening to his inner voice and he finds great joy in his theater work and in building community with the regular bus riders, who become performers in his attempts to produce plays.

As we grew to like the central character, as everyone did, it

became hard to watch him flounder as the story’s details built, and nuances pointed to truths he’d tried to close off.

“This musical is really about a man finding himself and his place in the world far later in life than maybe he had planned to,” said the play’s director, Julia Arbutus.

The storyline is both timeless and timely. When our ways of thinking start breaking down, we can break too, or we can learn to be less rigid to become more open and accepting. The latter is what saves our bus driver and his story. The lessons of the play are important, though at times hard to watch. It is difficult to witness characters turn away and later realize what they lost. Their journey to come to appreciate the bigger picture and the whole, messy, flawed and complicated person was also a reminder of perspective to those watching.

The music was lively and filled in story details for the audience between dialogue. The match worked so well and the voices were superb and clear. When the cast performed numbers together, my chair shook!

The sets and props were simple and changed often, but they

enhanced the storyline beautifully. With a few familiar pieces of furniture, we knew where we were. The stage-setting talent at Greenbelt Arts Center has proven to be a consistent strength.

It was clear that the actors loved their parts and sang their hearts out. The violinist had such a talent with strings and his own voice. Clarity and animation drew in the audience for all numbers.

This cast and crew deserve accolades for tackling a tough reality. Not only were we pulled along, but we were pulled into the story and learned so much from it. Thank you, Arts Center, for reaching for the challenging projects and sharing the wisdom of them with the audience.

There are three more weekends in which to experience the production; it closes on May 4.

*Content Warning: A Man of No Importance contains depictions and themes of violence and homophobia and includes slurs and strong language that may be upsetting to some viewers.*

## PORCH Food Pickups

April food pickups are as scheduled below. Note changes due to Passover.

Saturday, April 20, by 10 a.m. for 14 and 15 Courts Laurel Hill Road.

Sunday, April 28, by 4 p.m. for Boxwood Village, 9 and 12 Courts Ridge Road and 11 and 13 Courts Ridge Road.

Sunday, April 28, by 4 p.m. for P.A.L. (PORCH at large) members (including former Woodland Hill donors). Contact Robert Goldberg-Strassler at spreadruak@gmail.com by noon on April 28 and he will come to your porch.

Sunday, April 28, by 5 p.m. for Lakeside Drive.

Leave donations of nonperishables and hygiene products by the front door, marked RUAK or PORCH and visible from the street. Ensure donated items have not expired.

Volunteers who would like to expand Greenbelt PORCH to additional neighborhoods in Greenbelt are always welcome, particularly for the Greenbelt East area. Anyone with questions or who is interested in being a volunteer or starting a new neighborhood for monthly food collection, contact Goldberg-Strassler at spreadruak@gmail.com.

Review

# A Man of No Importance

by Greg Young

Greenbelt Art Center (GAC) is currently hosting the 1960s play, A Man of No Importance; its location a theater of some importance, particularly to the local community. The black-box 99-seat theater is comfortable, welcoming and unassuming.

But a bright light of fate has now beamed down on GAC in the form of an eclectic group of outstanding singers who can act, accompanied by comparable musical talent for a high-quality live performance that can be rare in community theater. The thespians collectively bring over 130 years of experience to GAC, and their exceptional abilities and enthusiasm are now echoing throughout those tired, well-worn spaces thanks to the deft direction of Julia Arbutus. For the theater audience, it means a Chateaubriand performance for the price of a burger. The singing is every bit as good as those on big-city stages, as are

the musicians, and, surprisingly, the props and staging are considerably more than one would expect from a black box presentation. The show is full of inspiring and uplifting music told with sweetness, and more than enough comical moments to offset the sparse serious bits.

Rising costs permeate everywhere, but the GAC is still affordable. Do yourself and the GAC a favor, Greenbelt, and be entertained by a wonderful, uplifting performance at your comfortable and loved theater. It will have you leaving with a warm smile.

The play runs weekends through May 4. Visit [greenbeltartscenter.org](http://greenbeltartscenter.org) for tickets and more information.

*Content Warning: A Man of No Importance contains depictions and themes of violence and homophobia and includes slurs and strong language that may be upsetting to some viewers.*

## GAC Continues to Safeguard Immunocompromised Patrons

The Greenbelt Arts Center (GAC) welcomes immunocompromised patrons to attend the 2 p.m. matinee of A Man of No Importance on Sunday, April 28. As part of GAC’s ongoing Belonging, Equity and Expansion initiative (BEE@GAC), they aim to rebuild in the post-covid era with an emphasis on fostering community through theater. One of GAC’s primary goals in this initiative is to be an open and welcoming place for all – including immunocompromised and covid-conscious guests. Accordingly, for the safety of those audience members, each GAC show running two or more weekends will have at least one performance at which masking is required.

(Masks will be available in the lobby for patrons who need one.) For more information about GAC’s policies and programming, visit [greenbeltartscenter.org](http://greenbeltartscenter.org).

## Chess Club Meets

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet at the Youth Center on Tuesday, April 23. The meeting runs from 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. This group is for all ages and skill levels. For questions, contact Effie at 443-415-1053.



PHOTO BY DITTE MCINNIS

An orchid blooms inside Mary Lou Williamson's house.



# A MAN OF NO IMPORTANCE



Only 3 weekends left!  
**APRIL 12 – MAY 4**  
Fri + Sat (8pm)  
Sun (2pm)\*

Book by **TERRENCE MCNALLY**, Music by **STEPHEN FLAHERTY**, lyrics by **LYNN AHRENS**, and based on the film "A MAN OF NO IMPORTANCE." Directed by Julia Arbutus, produced by Greenbelt Arts Center, musical direction by Johanna Alonso.

A MAN OF NO IMPORTANCE is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)

*\*In order to accommodate our immunocompromised patrons, facemasks are required for the Sunday 4/28 matinee.*



## Greenbelt Garden Boosters

### Invite You To

# A Garden Party

at Mary Lou’s Garden,  
58 Lakeside Drive  
or picket gate on Lake trail

Sunday, April 21 from noon to 4 p.m.





## National League of Cities Brings Centennial Roadshow to Greenbelt



PHOTO BY JAMES WISNIEWSKI

From left, City Manager Josué Salmerón, Councilmember Kristen Weaver, NLC's Clarence Anthony, Mayor Emmett Jordan, Councilmember Jenni Pompei and Councilmember Danielle McKinney pose in front of the Mother and Child statue in Roosevelt Center.

The City of Greenbelt was honored as an official stop on the National League of Cities (NLC) Centennial Roadshow: 100 Years, 100 Cities. Begun in March at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, where the NLC was founded, the roadshow continues coast to coast, stopping in cities of all sizes to share the unique stories of municipalities like Greenbelt. "We have a great and long-standing relationship with the NLC, and we celebrate its 100-year anniversary along with them," said Mayor Emmett Jordan. "We are honored and thrilled to welcome the NLC delegation to the City of Greenbelt and look forward to celebrating many more milestones."

During the roadshow stop in Greenbelt on Monday, April 15, elected officials guided the NLC delegation and city staff on a tour of the nationally recognized historic landmark, the Roosevelt Center, which houses the Greenbelt Cinema and the Mother & Child statue created by renowned sculptor Lenore Thomas Straus.

"It is truly an honor for NLC to visit remarkable municipalities, like the City of Greenbelt, that have

made significant contributions to the advancement of local government over the past 100 years," said Clarence Anthony, CEO and executive director of the NLC. "Each of these cities has played a pivotal role in moving our local communities forward and has a unique story that showcases transformative change. As we celebrate and chart a course for the next 100 years, I am more excited than ever for the future of cities, towns, and villages and look forward to continuing important work together." The final roadshow destination will be in Tampa, Florida, this November, where NLC will host its annual City Summit conference and culminating event. For more information about the roadshow or to learn more about NLC's centennial events or initiatives, visit [nlc100.org](http://nlc100.org).

*This article is based on a press release from the City of Greenbelt.*



PHOTO BY JAMES WISNIEWSKI

Clarence Anthony, CEO and executive director of NLC, left, is cheered on in hopscotch by Mayor Emmett Jordan.



## Council Discusses Businesses, Story Walk, Cameras, More

by Michael Zeliff

Greenbelt City Council addressed issues on Monday, April 8 ranging from autism and Earth Day through economic development and children's books, to red light cameras and, finally, grants still available in Greenbelt through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

### Petitions and Requests

During Petitions and Requests, resident Bob Rand noted that the Final Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (JEDI) Audit Report was listed on the Consent Agenda and he hoped that it would not become buried under other matters but receive the attention it deserves. In addition, residents Bill Orleans and Hank Meyer expressed concern about the News Review article on April 4 that reported on a long-time city employee whose position was terminated near her retirement without her being offered another job. Orleans questioned again council's frequent use of closed meetings to discuss issues, whereas Meyer wondered about the effect of the termination on other city employees. Mayor Emmett Jordan asked City Manager Josué Salmerón to address Orleans' multiple complaints in a letter.

### Economic Development

Salmerón began Administrative Reports by noting, among other activities, that on April 15 Greenbelt will host the president of the National League of Cities during its Roadshow here, this being the organization's 100th anniversary. (See story on left.)

Salmerón also explained that Greenbelt is working with the Washington Business Journal on ways to attract more businesses and potential customers to the city. Jordan expressed concern in noting the recent closures of T. J. Maxx in Beltway Plaza and Chevy's Restaurant on Greenbelt Road. He further stated that Greenbelt needs good marketing to promote its own story. Salmerón stated that he and Assistant City Manager Tim George will soon post an opening to hire an economic development manager. Councilmember Danielle McKinney encouraged city staff to look beyond Prince George's County to other nearby counties for advice. City resident Michael Hartman pointed out that Greenbelt has succeeded recently in supporting, for example, the Business Alliance here.

Beyond these concerns, Salmerón assured council that the city's new budget supports JEDI initiatives. Councilmember Jenni Pompei seconded Salmerón in praising the two Town Hall events for city staff that have taken place.

### Story Walk Project

Next, council turned to the proposal that it fund a Story Walk Project that will take young readers and their parents or caregivers out of the city's library and down to 21 stations installed along the tennis courts. These stations will line the asphalt trail (to be improved) that leads past the peace pole and benches and through the underpass below Crescent Road onto the sidewalk that encircles the nearby playground, all while they enhance the stories told in selected children's books. John Pfeifer, Prince

George's County Schools' donor engagement and grants officer, explained that library staff will change the books every 4 to 6 weeks. To concerns expressed by council about, for example, the steep hill that drops down from the library to the asphalt path, Recreation Director Greg Varda explained that improvements will occur, that the Library will help with maintenance, and that, if successful, other locations within Greenbelt such as Springhill Lake and Greenbelt Station will be considered. With Amy Knesel opposing, council voted 6 to 1 to support what will become an 18-month pilot program.

### Springhill Lake Recreation

In addition, council voted unanimously to fund a fresh coat of paint to be applied at Springhill Lake Recreation Center by Budget Painting for \$11,550. The hope is to have this work completed and also a new playground installed there in time for the center's Spring Festival.

### Red Light Cameras

Council also considered a new contract with Verra Mobility for red light cameras that, using a different fee pricing model, will save Greenbelt an estimated \$70,000 during the first year. After discussing problems at various intersections around Greenbelt, with Police Chief Richard Bowers reporting that accidents in those locations ranged from two to eight in 2023, council voted 6 to 1 in favor of the contract, with Councilmember Rodney Roberts opposing.

With regard to speeding problems on Kenilworth Avenue especially, Bowers responded to Michael Hartman's inquiry about adding more speed limit signs by explaining that Kenilworth is a state highway. Thus, the city must work with the State Highway Administration to reduce problems such as speeding as well as the commercial vehicles

that park along Kenilworth at the Greenbelt Road underpass.

### ARPA

Council next received an update by Tim George on Greenbelt's ARPA spending. This program, funded by the federal government and designed to deal with the effects of the Covid pandemic, is nearing an end. George provided a table that breaks down grants allocated to individuals and businesses within the city's three areas: Greenbelt East, which lies east of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway; West, which lies west of Kenilworth Avenue; and Center, which lies between these two highways. With the help of Liz Park, director of Greenbelt CARES, George determined that these three areas have received grants roughly equivalent to their populations. For Greenbelt West, then, that portion has been 37.7 percent; for Center, 29.8 percent; and for East, 32.5 percent. These grants covered such needs as healthcare vouchers and education scholarships, workforce development and childcare vouchers, business improvement and building infrastructure.

Jordan expressed surprise that Greenbelt West had not applied for a tree canopy grant, given the destruction it suffered from a bad storm. George wondered if people there are occupied with plans for a second swimming pool in Greenbelt. In response to Jordan's question about college scholarship funds, George answered that there's still \$100,000. Jordan requested that this money be distributed in a balanced way among students graduating from Greenbelt's high schools who plan to attend college. George thanked Pompei for helping to get word out on this available money to PTAs and other such groups. McKinney asked George to see that local churches also receive

See **COUNCIL**, page 8



The Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club

Invites you to

Autism in Focus:  
A Video Presentation & Discussion

moderated by Guillermo "Jet" Guerrero

Friday April 26, 2024  
7:00 to 9:00 pm  
Greenbriar Terrace Room  
7600 Hanover Parkway

Come in Blue in Celebration of Autism Awareness Month

[www.rooseveltclub.com](http://www.rooseveltclub.com)





# City Council Holds Work Session With County Council's I. Watson

by Madeleine Jepsen

On March 18, the Greenbelt City Council held a worksession with Prince George's County Council, discussing topics ranging from the county's deficit to health initiatives, transportation, schools and more. Only District 4 County Council Member Ingrid Watson attended this worksession.

### County Budget Deficit

Watson said that the Prince George's County Budget puts the county in a deficit. She said the deficit is only about one percent larger this year, "so not much of a change at all for the budget."

As a result of the deficit, the county will freeze more than 800 jobs that are open and funded, but Watson said no layoffs were discussed. She said there may be budget cuts for agencies other than schools and public safety. The county council's Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee will meet with agencies in April to review their individual agency budgets. Because of budget season, there will be less legislation on the county council agenda, Watson explained.

"It's going to be a busy next couple of months," she said.

### Legislation

Some of the evening's discussion focused on legislation, such as the juvenile crime bill Watson is tracking. To help residents of Charlestowne North, Watson is looking at legislation that would make it "much more difficult for somebody to do that to our residents," she said. She's also working on legislation related to stormwater management, among other topics.

Watson added that her office is fielding calls from seniors facing evictions or quality of life challenges. She is working with organizations that can provide funding to help seniors in need.

A county bill related to rent stabilization sponsored by Council Member Krystal Oriadha extends the current three percent bill for six months. Each county councilmember is now putting in their own requests for permanent legislation. Watson said she has met with the owners of Franklin Park, and county council is looking at what Montgomery County put forward for rent stabilization as a comparison for Prince George's County.

"We definitely want investment in our county as well, and we don't want to shun that away — we need that revenue. But we want to make sure that our residents are taken care of, and that's a priority," Watson said.

Mayor Emmett Jordan asked Watson about County Bill 15, which would revise comprehensive zoning and grandfather in certain types of developments, especially townhouses and multi-family developments. For Greenbelt's communities outside the Beltway, Greenbelt has more control over negotiations about amenities that should be available in new buildings, compared to the control it has over communities inside the Beltway, said Jordan.

### Schools

In terms of schools, the Springhill Lake Elementary School reconstruction is on course, Watson said, and she plans to get an update on plans



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

On Friday, March 1, Prince George's County Councilmember Ingrid S. Watson was outside Greenbelt's Municipal Building for a District 4 reusable bag giveaway.

for the Dora Kennedy French Immersion School (DKFI). City councilmembers expressed concern about preserving the original Greenbelt High School, currently occupied by DKFI.

Plans are for DKFI to move to shared space with Robert Goddard Montessori school; Springhill Lake Elementary School will use the former DKFI building for two years during construction of the new Springhill Lake School. Councilmembers expressed concerns that the DKFI building should be habitable if students will be using the facility.

Council asked about a plan for continued funding of the Blueprint for Education from the county, which will become a larger expense each year. Watson said she would get more information to share with the council about tax revenue for the Blueprint.

### Health and Environment

Watson also shared updates as a member of the county council's Health, Human Services and Public Safety Committee. The Cheverly Health Clinic will move to Greenbelt off Edmonston Road.

Watson mentioned the health center is moving forward and is scheduled to open in spring of 2026. "I think we're doing a good job right now, trying to mitigate some of the challenges," she said.

The county is currently conducting informational campaigns and screening events to improve heart disease, diabetes and obesity issues.

Watson is planning some environmental workshops on topics such as composting and recycling.

### Transportation

Greenbelt resident Maurice Crawford asked if Watson could convene the county's TheBus and Metrobus parties together to talk about bus routes and efficiency between routes. Watson said the bus routes 11, 16 and 15x are not up for elimination.

"We're definitely fighting the cuts that WMATA is trying to make to the buses," Watson said. Council discussed how road infrastructure improvements for the Greenbelt Road corridor need to be prioritized in light of the new FBI headquarters, and Watson confirmed it is a priority for the county council and the county executive.

Jordan said, based on a call he had with the State Highway Administration, there's budget funding for a fourth Capital Bike-share station at Greenbelt Metro and near Eleanor Roosevelt High School.

### Residents' Questions

Resident Leon Schacter asked about rent stabilization. He commented that charging new tenants for water and sewer as a work-around to the rent cap should be prohibited. He also mentioned that the county's budget proceedings need to be transparent and predictable for the public to participate. Additional comments discussed bus coverage, the need

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## COUNCIL continued from page 7

this information.

Jordan also emphasized the importance of funding that goes to organizations such as CARES for workforce development and retraining. Also, funds still remain for assisting buyers in purchasing homes. To Orleans' question about emergency rental assistance, George replied that, while the federal government provided \$2.7 million during the pandemic, Greenbelt is now focused on funding education and training and also on helping businesses create more jobs. Jordan summed up this discussion by noting how federal programs can change lives on the local level. For more information about ARPA funding here, go to [engage@greenbelt.org](mailto:engage@greenbelt.org).

### Autism Awareness

Jordan issued a proclamation declaring April as Autism Awareness Month, noting that 1 in 36 Americans have some type of autism. Anne Oudemans, assistant director of recreation programs,

and Priya Gardner Lemieux, interim therapeutic recreation coordinator, accepted the proclamation and emphasized that Greenbelt's summer camps strive to provide successful experiences for all participants. Oudemans added that openings remain in the camps for this coming summer. Councilmember Silke Pope praised this effort to include all children and pointed out that Lemieux also works with students at Springhill Lake Elementary School.

### Earth Day

Jordan went on to deliver a proclamation for Earth Day on April 22. Environmental Coordinator Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll responded by asking for volunteers to meet near the city's tennis courts on Saturday, April 13 to help with planting and then on Saturday, April 20 to meet near the parking lot above Buddy At-tick Park to help with invasive species control.



PHOTO COURTESY JENNI POMPI

Greenbelt Councilmembers Jenni Pompi, left, Danielle McKinney and Mayor Emmett Jordan (not pictured) attended the first day of National League of Cities' Congressional City Conference on March 11. It marked 100 years of the conference and featured a keynote address by President Joe Biden.

## CALLING ALL ARTISTS! CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

Friends of New Deal Cafe Arts (FONDCA)

needs YOUR ART for the Green Man Art

exhibit at the New Deal Cafe. This year

the theme of the Green Man Festival is

**Dragons of the Earth: Where Myth Meets**

**Nature**, celebrating the Chinese Year of

the Dragon. The Green Man Festival is a

celebration of Nature. Please submit

photos of your artwork, photographs, etc.

to [artworksbymaryann@gmail.com](mailto:artworksbymaryann@gmail.com)

All Artwork Must Be Hang Ready,

so artwork is ready to hang on the walls

of the New Deal Cafe. Looking forward

to your nature based artwork.

Support Small Businesses!

Mother's Day is coming up!

Shop from local vendors & crafters: jewelry, home goods, sweet treats, and so much more!!

Lunch will be available for purchase!

HOURLY Door Prize Drawing!

Spring Vendor Show!

Sat., April 20, 2024  
10AM to 3PM

11900 Glenn Dale Blvd.  
Glenn Dale, MD 20769

HOSTED BY THE AUXILIARY OF THE  
GLENN DALE FIRE ASSOCIATION, INC.

For more information call 301-452-1107



# Art Studio Open House Showcases Artists in Residence, Artful Afternoon

by Rebecca Squire

Explore fantastical landscapes, plumb the depths of the human psyche and travel back into music history at the upcoming Art Studio Open House and Sale at the Greenbelt Community Center. Sponsored by the Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program, the semi-annual Open House is part of an Artful Afternoon taking place on Sunday, May 5, from 1 to 4 p.m. Visitors can mingle and shop with the Center’s artists in residence, instructors and other local artists, and learn about the city’s expansive arts class offerings for all ages. Additional activities will include hands-on art making and a dance concert.

Eight artists in residence currently share three rooms on the Community Center’s third floor, working in a wide range of styles and media. In studio 303, meet ceramic sculptor Chris Corson, who creates poignant, figurative works that speak to both personal history and social imperatives. His sculpture *The World* is currently featured on the cover of the Spring 2024 *ArtDiction* online magazine, which includes a feature article about his work. Corson shares room 303 with fellow Greenbelter Laurence Anderson, who has been making and restoring violins for more than 35 years. Anderson is currently in the process of restoring a violin created in 1793 by the famous Sicilian violin maker Vincenzo Panormo.

Studio 302 is shared by ceramic artists Karen Arrington, Gina Mai Denn and Mary Gawlik. Arrington and Denn primarily create beautiful, functional pottery. Gawlik creates complex art tiles and tile panels, incorporating a wide variety of surface decoration techniques and themes of nature, architecture and sailing, among others.

Studio 301 is shared by artists Rachel Ann Cross, Kathy Karlson and Rachel Kerwin. Cross creates mixed media, Earth-conscious art including wearable accessories, paintings and assemblages incorporating repurposed beads and other interesting finds. She is currently working on a project called *Tree of Life* that can be viewed during the Open House. Karlson is a colorist whose atmospheric, abstract paintings often suggest land- and seascapes. Kerwin uses “fumage” (smoke drawing), photo

## Novel Endings Open for Business

Novel Endings is the used book room within the Greenbelt Library. Sales of books and other media from this room support special programming and the Library.

Maintained by volunteers for the Friends of Greenbelt Library, Novel Endings receives donations of book discards from the library as well as donations from the community by special arrangements. To donate books, email [friendsofgreenbeltlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofgreenbeltlibrary@gmail.com). Cash and check donations are also accepted in the blue box next to the Library’s front desk.

Come see what Novel Endings has to offer and support the Greenbelt Library at the same time.



Artist-in-Residence Rachel Ann Cross works on her new piece called *Tree of Life*.



A violin originally created by Vincenzo Panormo in 1793 is being restored by Artist-in-Residence Laurence Anderson.

transfer and other techniques to explore a range of themes from migration to human roosts.

Additional Greenbelt Recreation Arts instructors and program participants will be displaying and selling their work in the first- and third-floor classrooms.

Guests can register in advance to participate in a free hands-on workshop on the Community Center front lawn. Make colorful art with spray paint and stencils in an activity led by Greenbelt artist Shaymar Higgs, founder of The SPACE. Three sessions are offered between 1 and 4 p.m.

At 2 p.m., celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month with a Chinese dance concert in

the gymnasium. The presentation will feature performances by the RoseQi Dance Arts and Gina Ling Chinese Dance Chamber. Learn more about all of the day’s events at [bit.ly/4axwZn4](https://bit.ly/4axwZn4).

City of Greenbelt arts programs are supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council.

Don't be shy. Advertise here.

**REVEAL ALL**

**\$16 and up.**

[www.GreenbeltNewsReview.com](http://www.GreenbeltNewsReview.com)

## City Notes

Public Works Streets crew upgraded the concrete slab and drainage equipment at the Aquatic and Fitness Center’s pool utility room. Environmental/Sustainability Coordinators worked with the Greenbelt Rotary Club on Arbor Day service.

Animal Shelter residents are eight cats, one kitten, five dogs, a rabbit and a snake.

The Code Inspector appeared in court regarding municipal infractions cited at Charlestowne North Apartments.

Recreation and Public Works coordinated to schedule painting at Springhill Lake Recreation Center with minimum disruption.

At the Community Center, all new cameras have been installed. The facility accommodated Girl Scouts, Golden Age Club, Concert Band, Community Orchestra, Honk! Situation, Interfaith Leadership, Arts Center, Labor Day Festival Committee and 15 rentals.

Arts offered an after-school workshop and an Artful Afternoon (both at Springhill Lake Recreation Center), a Parent’s Night Out and an Art Share.

Therapeutic Recreation, Police, CARES/GAIL and the Crisis Intervention team met about programs, information and services for seniors.

The Director of CARES attended the GILA meeting.

## Spring Lawn Care Tips For a Healthy Bay

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) is reminding homeowners and lawn care professionals to follow Maryland’s Lawn Fertilizer Law when caring for lawns this spring. The law, which has been in effect for more than a dozen years, aims to protect local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay from excessive nutrients contained in fertilizer products applied to non-agricultural land, including golf courses, parks, recreation areas, athletic fields, businesses and hundreds of thousands of urban and suburban lawns.

MDA offers these spring lawn care tips:

Consider skipping the spring fertilizer, especially if the lawn is healthy. Fall is the best time to fertilize cool-season grasses like fescues and Kentucky bluegrass. Get the soil tested before applying any fertilizer to see if it will benefit from added nutrients.

Sharpen lawnmower blades in the spring to avoid tearing and weakening the grass.

Mow the grass on the high setting to shade out weeds and conserve moisture. Three inches is an ideal height for most lawns.

Leave grass clippings on the lawn. They provide free fertilizer all season long.

## COUNTY continued from page 8

to meet with residents about rent stabilization, the potential use for the armory building to be utilized as a recreation center for Greenbelt’s youth and the need for more shelter space for Greenbelt’s unhoused population.

### Permits and Airbnbs

Jordan asked Watson about the backup in getting permits from the county Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE). He also asked about the Homeowners Association Roundtable, which Watson said discussed issues with permitting and illegal businesses, Airbnb, flooding issues and renovations. Watson and Jordan discussed how to improve communication about Airbnbs between the county and city.

### Public Safety

In terms of crime and public safety, Watson and council discussed volunteer firefighter issues and the potential for career firefighters to be removed from some stations. Watson said she’s not aware of any plan to remove career firefighters. Council also asked about the potential for a North County Animal Shelter, since Greenbelt’s small animal shelter is often overwhelmed. Watson has received requests for that animal shelter to open and acknowledged it as a “big need.”

Watson reported that the police accountability board is working well but noticed some potential cuts to the police accountability board in the new budget.

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BUDGET continued from page 1

is also expected to reduce engineering costs by using internal expertise.

Mayor Emmett Jordan requested clarification on variation in the cost of benefits and Hruby explained that this was due to staffing fluctuations during the year. Salmerón further clarified, pointing out that the methodology used was based on the actual cost of department staff benefits rather than a plug number average. (Note: A plug number is an approximation used as a placeholder.) He believes this creates a more realistic benefits estimate.

Jordan was concerned that keeping a vacancy open might result in falling behind on inspections. Hruby affirmed they were still inspecting all rental apartments annually, except that half of Franklin Park is inspected on alternating years. Cabrera, assistant director of planning and community development, confirmed that the remote inspections pioneered during covid were still available on request.

ARPA spending plans will include bus shelters and continuing expansion of the solar lighting program associated with them, which has proven successful and popular.

Charlestowne North

A departmental challenge over the last year has been the bankruptcy of Charlestowne North’s early 2023 buyers and the dismal conditions then prevailing at this once-luxury apartment building overlooking Greenbelt Lake. Hruby, Salmerón and Cabrera documented the city’s participation in its turnaround.

With the owner in receivership, Cabrera said major issues, like leaks in the common areas and apartments, have been fixed. The security system is operational but the elevators await their final inspection, and necessary repairs depend on the hiring of third-party contractors.

Cabrera confirmed that the receiver, Tarantino, is communicating effectively with the city and trash pickup is now routine. The waste chutes, which were (as previously reported in this newspaper) choked with waste up to the eighth or ninth floor, were cleared by city’s Public Works Department and are operational. Two technicians have been hired for individual apartment maintenance, and a property manager and assistant property manager are on-site and have a support team from Tarantino headquarters.

During the year, the city did three solid waste removal trips at Charlestowne North and two snow removal runs. The property manager, who had held the fort during the period when zero support was forthcoming from the

owner, was retained.

Jordan asked about billing for the services the city has rendered. Salmerón confirmed with Hruby that the bill for services provided by the city is approximately \$34,000, but explained that the judge in the bankruptcy has jurisdiction over what is paid out and when. Salmerón is hopeful that at least some of that amount will be forthcoming, but stated he had felt compelled to provide the service as a matter of public health to city residents. Nobody contradicted him.

Other Apartment Concerns

Jane Apartments, cited multiple times for trash accumulations, has instituted more frequent pickups with daily oversight and the situation has been resolved.

Residents in Franklin Park and other apartment communities get a response to a complaint within 24 hours and an inspection may be scheduled if required. Problems are evaluated approximately every 10 days and a citation may be issued if nothing is being done. Mostly, issues are attended to promptly by owners.

Projects

Numerous ongoing projects are underway, including the Royal Farms gas station and convenience store, which is on track after some initial compliance concerns. City projects include Buddy Attick Park’s final two relatively small elements: interpretive signs and a kiosk. Hruby noted that the parking lot stormwater control measures appear to be working well, and in response to a question by Councilmember Silke Pope, stops have been placed at the end of parking spaces to prevent vehicles from rolling into the tree line.

Cycle trail improvements are being identified and worked on along Greenbelt Road from Hanovertown Parkway to Good Luck Road. (See story on the trail, page 13.)

The department expects a supplemental environmental impact statement for the Bureau of Engraving and Printing project. Both this and the FBI headquarters are still being defined, especially in terms of traffic and parking, so any city action remains on hold until there is more specific information.

Staff are also preparing for a Vision Zero grant application that will help accomplish the required initial planning before applying for implementation grants that follow, but this project is currently also on hold. Vision Zero is a Maryland program modeled after an international effort to achieve zero fatalities and serious injuries on the roads by 2030. Other grant applications are also under consideration.

Uptick in Juvenile Crime a Priority For Greenbelt and the Legislature

by Madi Eades

The Greenbelt Police Department reported that juvenile crime more than tripled in 2023 from 2022. The department is mobilizing tip lines, building community and communication and looking to cameras to help curb the rise.

The most significant sector of crime overall in the Greenbelt community for 2023 was crime perpetrated by juveniles, which increased by 212 percent compared to 2022 juvenile arrests (see Crime Trends, Youth Offenders Discussed at Police Meeting in the March 7 issue).

The crimes themselves? “Those will be more in line with vandalism, cars being broken into, as well as cars being stolen,” reported Ricardo Dennis, public information officer for the Greenbelt Police Department, who said the city hasn’t seen an increase in crime across the board or in areas not impacted by juvenile crime.

Last year, automobile theft increased by nearly 263 percent compared to 2022, for a total of 540 incidents.

“You’ll see this pretty much daily in different areas of the City of Greenbelt,” said Dennis. “[They] target the same specific types of vehicles, the Hyundais and Kias.”

This spike in car crimes and theft in the area is part of a national trend likely due to a TikTok challenge that began in 2021, teaching viewers how to break into 2010-2021 Kia and Hyundai cars that use a mechanical key rather than a key fob or push-to-start. Some older models lack auto theft protection, such as an electronic immobilizer, which relies on a computer chip in the car and one in the key to confirm the key belongs to the vehicle. Security loopholes in some older models have allowed them to be easily hotwired, though Kia and Hyundai manufacturers have since rolled out a patch, an anti-theft software update, seeking to address the problem. Once teens figure out how to get into the cars, they go for a joyride, said Dennis.

“There’s a lack of consequences in some of these cases,” said Dennis. “Part of the problem is that the juvenile system doesn’t have the resources to deal with all the juvenile crimes that are coming in.” According to a report by the Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit of the state Office of the Attorney General, youth charged as adults comprised roughly 60 percent of the Department of Ju-

venile Services detention centers.

In the case of car thefts in Greenbelt, for example, juveniles will be arrested and then released back into the parent’s custody, only to be arrested again for the same crime a few days later and again released back to the parent, repeating the process.

Now, the Greenbelt Police Department has set out to find more ways to address repeat juvenile offenders by building relationships with the youth community and Greenbelt schools. The department has increased its communication with schools, including school resource officers, to understand the school environment better and keep a watch on repeat offenders when they are absent from school, said Dennis.

The department has also increased the number of officers patrolling the areas where Greenbelt has seen the most problems in an effort to deter crimes from happening in the first place, he added.

The police department has set out to build better relationships with Greenbelt youth, doing more activities within the city, during the summer day camp and “just building some relationships with some of the kids,” said Dennis. He pointed to CARES as another great resource for youths and families. The Greenbelt CARES program, a member

of Maryland’s Youth and Family Service Bureaus network, offers free individual and family counseling, mental health resources and school outreach to promote responsible behavior and positive family management skills to those within the community.

The police department has used social media to reach out to the Greenbelt youth, said Dennis, and created anonymous tip lines to promote community safety and gather information to identify who is committing crimes and where.


As the Greenbelt community attempts to address the increase in juvenile crime, Maryland legislators do the same. Three recent Acts – the Maryland Juvenile Justice Reform Bill of 2021, the Interrogation Protection Act of 2022 and Child Safe Harbor–Abuse-Trafficking Act of 2023 are designed to protect juveniles from exploitation and over-policing but are cited by some as impediments to curbing juvenile crime. Some have proposed legislation to address the accountability aspect of juvenile offenses. “We need to increase probation when kids need more time to benefit from rehabilitation,” stated Maryland Governor Wes Moore in a meeting with the Maryland General Assembly in January.

Madi Eades is a student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism writing for the News Review.

Senior Nutrition Program Luncheon

The Senior Nutrition Food and Friendship program provides lunch for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at 11:30 a.m. Participants must complete a registration form in person at the Community Center office, on Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. There is a suggested donation. Call 301-397-2208, ext. 4215 with questions.

Two menu options, one vegetarian, will be offered for each luncheon.



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PHOTO BY MICHAEL HARTMAN

The City Council follows up on its retreat held on January 27 to clarify, focus and prioritize goals for this term. This worksession was facilitated by Tom Reynolds (far right), senior director of leadership development for the Maryland Municipal League.



# Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred April 8-14. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an inquiry. Call the nonemergency number 301-474-7200 or email [pd@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:pd@greenbeltmd.gov). Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Greenbelt Police Department reported one incident with Child Protective Services, two domestic disputes, including one involving child custody and another leading to a mental health diversion, three additional mental health diversions, plus two overdoses and one sexual assault.

Three missing person cases were resolved.

### Shooting

On April 11 at 2:35 p.m. near 5805 Cherrywood Terrace, gunshots were heard. One man was shot and drove himself to a hospital. Ongoing investigation indicates that two people exchanged gunfire before fleeing the scene.

### Assault

On April 10 at 7:30 p.m. near 20 Southway, an Uber driver was giving someone a ride when he had a flat tire. He pulled over to put air in the tire and the rider started yelling, demanded their money back and hit him in the back of the head. The rider denied hitting the driver. The driver was told how to press charges.

On April 14 at 10:44 p.m. near 5707 Cherrywood Lane, an officer on patrol witnessed one person punch another multiple times. The assailant was charged with assault.

### DUI

On April 13 at 12:22 a.m. near Greenbelt Road and Kenilworth Avenue, a vehicle was being driven at night without headlights. The driver had bloodshot eyes and smelled of alcohol, stated he'd had two beers and consented to a field sobriety test to make sure he was ok. After the test he was arrested on suspicion of DUI.

On April 13 at 6:19 p.m. near Springhill Drive and Cherrywood Lane, a driver who struck another vehicle had been drinking. After a field sobriety test, the driver was arrested for DUI.

On April 14 at 5:39 a.m. near Greenbelt Road and Walker Drive, Greenbelt Police officers assisted U.S. Park Police with a driver with watery, bloodshot eyes who admitted to having one drink while out with friends. The driver was given field sobriety tests and was arrested for DUI.

### Fraud

On April 8 near 10 Southway, a credit card had unauthorized activity. On April 9 near 24 Ridge Road, a credit card was used to make an unauthorized purchase. On April 10 near 550 Crescent Road, officers assisted a citizen who was the victim of identity theft and fraud. On April 10 near 14 Ridge Road, several fraudulent checks were cashed against a bank account.

On April 11 near 7833 Walker Drive, a business account had funds missing, and several unauthorized checks were cashed. On April 11 near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man lost his wallet in a parking lot and his credit card was later charged. On April 14 at 6:01 p.m. near 5815 Cherrywood Lane, a group of females were causing a disturbance; they explained that someone had stolen money from one of their mothers by using her bank information to make online purchases. On April 14 at 9:16 p.m. near 7200 Hanover Drive, a man was

arrested for trying to check in to a hotel using a fraudulent credit card.

### Theft

On April 11 at 11:37 p.m. near 9104 Edmonston Court, two students approached a high school student and stole an electronic device from him. On April 9 near 408 Ridge Road, a return package was left for UPS, and someone took it. On April 11 near 406 Ridge Road, after a cleaning company cleaned the residence, a laptop was missing. On April 12 near 12 Parkway, a package was delivered and then stolen. On April 8 at 1:32 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, two people stole items from a store.

### Attempted Theft

On April 9 at 8:26 p.m. near Breezewood Drive and Springhill Lane, a boy was walking from school when several other boys approached him and asked for his jacket. He did not remove his jacket and kept walking, and the group went on down the street.

### Vandalism

On April 14 near 7513 Mandan Road, a woman heard a loud banging noise around 3 a.m. and found her front door had been damaged.

### Vehicle Crimes Stolen Vehicles

Stolen vehicles this week included: April 9 near 428 Ridge Road, a 2020 Infiniti Q50 (MD: A402385), and near 6142 Springhill Terrace, a white 2021 Infiniti Q50 (MD: 9EY8063); April 13 near 9100 Springhill Lane, a utility trailer; near 124 Westway, a black 2016 350z (DC: GG5621); and near 7825 Mandan Road, a gray 2023 Lexus RX350 (MD: 4FF0369); and, on April 14 near 7557 Greenbelt Road, a 2018 Toyota Camry

(MD: 7DD0282) was stolen after it was left running with the doors unlocked in the fire lane in front of a store.

On April 12 near 22 Ridge Road, a woman received notice of multiple toll violations, which showed her tags displayed on a Jeep and not on her vehicle (a Honda Civic). A family member had permission to use the car but didn't tell her the car was missing.

### Theft from Auto

Rear tags were stolen April 8 near 6102 Breezewood Drive and April 13 near 9154 Springhill Court.

Several vehicles had windows broken and items stolen: on April 10 at 9:07 a.m. near 900 Good Luck Road, while stopped at a convenience store, a vehicle's window was broken and items stolen; April 12 near 6223 Springhill Court, AirPods; near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a backpack, laptop, and wallet; and near 6040 Greenbelt Road, a laptop, backpack and flashlight; April 13 near 5904 Cherrywood Terrace, a credit card; and April 14 near 6207 Springhill Court, a debit card.

### Vandalism to Auto

On April 9 near 6000 Springhill Drive, a vehicle was vandalized by having a white powder poured into the gas tank. On April 14 near 9168 Edmonston Road, a vehicle window was broken, but nothing was taken.



# Presidential Primary Election

Maryland will hold its Presidential Primary on Tuesday, May 14, with in-person voting from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. In addition to candidates for president, voters will select those who will contend in November for an open Maryland seat in the U.S. Senate and all members of the U.S. House of Representatives.

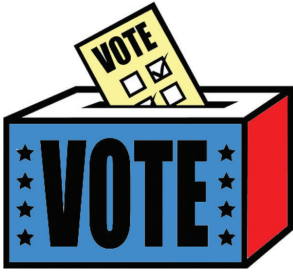
Those who wish to obtain a mail-in ballot by mail or fax must send a request that is received by the Board of Elections by Tuesday, May 7. Requests for mail-in ballots that will be returned via the internet must be received on Friday, May 10. Requests sent by mail or fax must be received by the BOE by 5 p.m.; requests sent online must be received by 11:59 p.m.

Mail-in ballots must be postmarked or placed in a designated ballot drop box by 8 p.m. on May 14 for the Presidential Primary Election.

To vote in person, Marylanders can vote during early voting or on Election Day. Early voting will be available from Thursday, May 2 through Thursday, May 9 (including Saturday and Sunday) from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Voters can vote early at any early voting center in the county where they live. There are no early voting centers in Greenbelt but nearby ones include the College Park Community Center and the Wayne Curry Sports and Learning Center.

People can register to vote during early voting, at an early voting center, or on Election Day at their local polling place. They must bring a document that proves where they live: an MVA-issued license, Permit, ID card, change of address card, paycheck, bank statement, utility bill or other government document with their name and address.

For more information, including a full list of early voting centers, or to find the local polling



place, visit [elections.maryland.gov/elections/2024/index.html](https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2024/index.html) or contact the Board of Elections at 151 West Street, Suite 200, Annapolis, Md 21401, 410-269-2840.

# Bicycle Committee Hosts Annual Spring Social

Attend and meet fellow Greenbelt bicyclists in an ongoing series of GHI Bicycle Committee social events. The program takes place on Saturday, April 27, from 1 to 3 p.m. (rain date: May 4) and will include a basic get-your-bike-ready-for-spring-riding demo by Graham Squire, certified bicycle mechanic with REI, Washington, D.C.; a short update and Q&A with Jeff Lemieux of Proteus Bicycles on the Greenbelt East Trail (for a primer, go to [proteusbicycles.com](https://proteusbicycles.com), click on About, then Advocacy); and, a discussion on the how-to's of bicycle backpacking, city and rural, by committee member Rebecca Squire.

The event takes place at the GHI Building, 1 Hamilton Place, adjacent to the bicycle repair station. Light refreshments will be available. And there will be swag, as well as door prizes awarded to 10 lucky attendees. Engage and meet with other local cyclists, and find out more about the GHI Bicycle Committee.

For more information email John Campanile, chair, GHI Bicycle Committee at [jbelltower@yahoo.com](mailto:jbelltower@yahoo.com).



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HOME continued from page 1

that buyers were reluctant upon seeing things he hadn't fixed with eight children and little money, including a failed dishwasher and wall oven whose empty spaces he covered with cabinet doors. They also noticed the lack of air conditioning, with ceiling holes to circulate air to the finished attic, and that closet staircase to the attic.

Fred started working on Dorothy to buy the house: "No, I'm not doing it." Then he started on Norm, offering a 5 percent mortgage when 13 percent was typical. She still wasn't convinced. Finally she made a renovation list, to which Fred quickly agreed. He removed the hallway to turn the bedroom into a dining room, removed its closet and added a staircase banister, rear window and door. He filled the ceiling holes and added a deck.

When Dorothy and Norm moved in, the house came with two brothers and a friend in the basement, who stayed for 14 years. Fred and Dorothy visited for a few weeks (then months) in winter. Dorothy and Norm hosted family Thanksgivings and Christmases for 10 years, and had children.

When Murray first saw Greenbelters moving away and returning, he believed they "couldn't hack it in the real world." He walked to St. Hugh's School, downhill from his Ridge Road passive solar house through the woods to Greenhill Road and the Stream Valley Path. His family lived in a small walkable English town for three years and experienced European public transport. After he married fellow Greenbelter Liz Mullen Murray, they moved to Michigan where they found a car-centric environment without walkways, requiring driving everywhere. "It wasn't until I went to Michigan that I saw why people moved away and came back."

They returned to Greenbelt, to GHI and then Empire Place, from which their children walked through the woods up the hill to grandparents Joe and Alice and Greenbelt Elementary School.

In 2013 Jonathan and Liz considered buying a farm, upon which Joe and Alice thought, "Why are we still here if they're leaving?" and immediately bought a GHI home. Jonathan, Liz and their three children moved into the family home in winter 2013-2014. Three-year-old Lucy looked through the south windows through the bare trees downhill to Empire Place house lights in the dark, exclaiming, "Look! Look at the village!"

Making It Their Own

Garin and husband Jim made her grandfather's upstairs bedroom and bathroom their own, for its light and backyard access. They added skylights to the cathedral ceiling and opened the kitchen to the great room. She removed her mother's dark drapes, today having no window coverings on the floor to ceiling windows at front and back. "I love being part of nature. You can't see me from the front, and there's no one in the backyard except the beaver and the fox and the deer."

Auerbach's dad Bob Auerbach moved to Charlestowne North and Green Ridge House, and then back home. At that point, they built an addition with a bedroom, second bathroom and porch, so



The sunspace next to the south-facing windows is Jonathan Murray's favorite room, with the woods downhill reflected on the right. From left, son Kellen, daughter Lucy, Jonathan Murray, wife Liz Mullen Murray and daughter Izzy

- Photos by Erica Johns

he could live on the first floor.

Heather Hart and her father have changed little in their home, but are planning some painting.

Siegel converted his teenage bedroom to a workout room, renovated the kitchen and created a TV room. He added his back yard decorations on the lake path, inspired by daughter Sydney's Halloween birthday.

Murray removed a koi pond, enclosed an interior second floor balcony space as his home office, and modified the enclosed sunroom next to the south facing windows to convert it to living space, now called the sunspace, his favorite room. His and Liz's children don't use the garage as a clubhouse as he did, instead gravitating to the rear deck, which was enlarged during the pandemic.

Liz said, at first changes were slow and felt weird. Jonathan's father liked seeing how they used every part of the house. She said his mother was more reticent but has warmed up.

Kash said there was a lot not to like about the house she loves, which she is spending her retirement fixing. She and Hank replaced the tiny bedroom with a closet, dressing room and bathroom for the master bedroom. They added a French door to open the back wall to a deck, stairs, patio and screened porch, and added a front patio. There is now a large, bright room over the carport, and the kitchen was renovated for a more functional layout. The woods behind her house, once a scary wilderness, are now her secret garden, where she added a vintage wrought iron gate for access, cleared ivy and grows native plants and hangs art from trees.

Mother Dorothy Baluch decorated with dark greens and dark curtains. Dobson repainted to make the house her own with pastel colors and sheer white curtains. The foyer, kitchen and dining room are a pale blue-green, as are shelves in the bisque living room. She also painted over sister Barbara's hobbit and Emma Peel/Avengers wall paintings, for



Heather Hart raises carnivorous plants and orchids in her GHI on Ridge Road.

which siblings still give her grief. She and Norm enlarged a small attic room with a sloped roof and dormer windows before their second son was born. He feels the biggest change was replacing the vinyl kitchen floor with wood extending through much of the first floor; visitors said, "Oh, the house looks completely different." She remembers dad Fred asking, "Why wasn't it this nice when we lived here?" "Because you had eight children!" Her siblings are comfortable visiting, despite their trips to the cereal cabinet ending after she rearranged, when they exclaimed, truly upset:

"Why isn't the cereal here?!"

Home for Good

Hart feels good to be home, raising carnivorous plants and orchids, watching birds, beginning a graduate degree and preparing to raise Irish terriers again.

Auerbach shares her home with partner John Garner, for whom the dining room is a home office. She shelters feral cats on her back porch, and inside, prominently displays her fourth grade Siamese cat portrait, with rice she dyed and glued, and eyes of broken glass from McDonald Field.

Thinking of the changes she's made to her home, Kash said her mother "would have liked it, I think, but maybe wondered." In childhood her house was just home; now it has become a family member.

Lucy Murray, now 13, says she can imagine living in her home as an adult, liking the openness, sun and familiarity. Liz Murray loves its location and sun. Jonathan said, "I'm very appreciative of what we have, the space and the location. Every so often we talk about moving, but there are too many pros to living



Marc Siegel relaxes in his back yard facing Greenbelt Lake, where he says every day feels like vacation.

here."

Dobson thought she and Norm could never afford a house and is thankful they bought her parents' home. "I love opening the curtains and the sun coming in, and with the two of us, it's the perfect size," she said. "I feel like it's mine, though it's taken a long time. We did look at other communities, but there was never

See HOME, page 13



Kash and husband Hank Meyer opened their home's rear wall with a French door for access to the back yard, adding stairs and a screened porch.

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HOME continued from page 12

any place like Greenbelt that we wanted to go to. It ended up just being the perfect place for us.”

Siegel said his children loved growing up in Greenbelt, and his daughter lives in GHI with her fiancé (also from Maplewood). He doesn’t take vacations, feeling he is on vacation in his backyard on the lake, kayaking and photographing its wildlife. “I just felt like this was the perfect place to be. I don’t think I could find a better place, and I don’t want to look.”

Garin’s late husband Jim loved their home and Greenbelt: “He thought the place was spectacular.” Son Ethan frequently visits and uses the entire house. “He loves being here, I can see it in his face,” as does his girlfriend, who goes birding with a neighbor and to Community Center workshops.

Though many of her neighbors are new, the sense of community



Eva Garin and her dog Fiona in her great room under the cathedral ceiling

and looking out for each other remains. Her family has left their mark. During family gatherings, she is sure she smells smoke in her grandfather’s bathroom: “I think my grandfather’s here.” She looks out her back windows at azaleas her mother bought at Giant, now 50 years old and huge. The azaleas are blooming now, and her backyard is coming to life.



Dobson repainted her mother’s dark green walls with pastel colors, here shown in the living room and dining room. The dining room was her childhood bedroom. Its closet and attic stairs were in the visible back left corner.



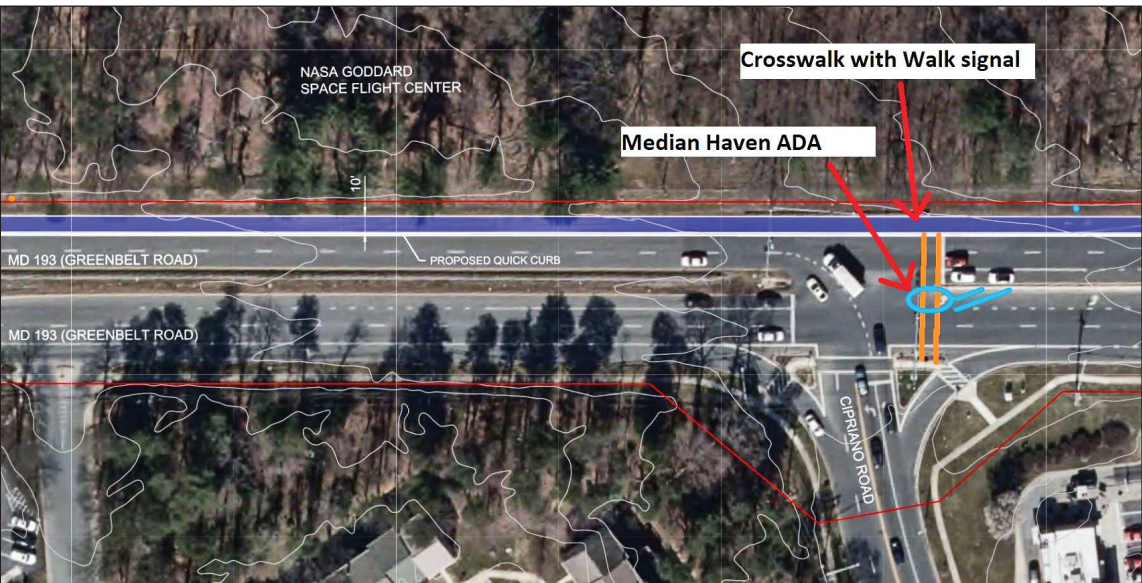
Kash’s dining room contains her mother Fann’s china cabinet.

- Photos by Erica Johns



# MDOT Draft Outlines Greenbelt East Trail to Goddard, Glenn Dale

by Jeff Lemieux



The Friends of the Greenbelt East Trail group recommends a crosswalk at Cipriano Road. Source: MD Dept. of Transportation (draft); annotation by Friends of the Greenbelt East Trail

In March, the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) shared some tantalizing details from the Greenbelt East Trail feasibility study with stakeholders and advocates. When completed, the two-way bike and walking trail would run alongside MD Route 193 from Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) in Greenbelt past Goddard to the Glenn Dale Splash Park, which is an entrance point for the WB&A Trail toward Anne Arundel County and Baltimore. The Greenbelt East Trail would thereby connect the WB&A Trail System in Maryland with the Anacostia River Trail System toward Washington, D.C. via Greenbelt.

MDOT’s feasibility study is still in the internal comment stage. However, the initial design plans for the section between the Greenbelt city limit (near Mandan Road) and Good Luck Road would protect trail users from car traffic by curbing or through commercial Quick Curb products.

The study also recommends a signalized crosswalk at Chelsea Wood, which would greatly improve safety for current bus stop users and future trail users in that area. Moreover, the study envisions “floating” bus stops along the route. These are raised asphalt platforms on the trail that give bus riders extra protection, like those recently installed on Rhode Island Avenue in College Park.

### Recommendations

Friends of the Greenbelt East Trail have two recommendations for the trail near the old NASA entrance at Goddard Road. First, a crosswalk to the trail at Cipriano Road. Second, that the inbound (westbound) deceleration ramp to NASA at Goddard Road be shortened. This would reduce or eliminate the need for a retaining wall, saving costs for the project.

Finally, the MDOT study recommends squaring off the outbound high-speed ramp from

Goddard’s new main entrance at ICESAT Road toward westbound Route 193. This would greatly improve safety for trail users and would have a traffic calming effect.

The full feasibility study for the trail will be released in the coming months. Friends of the Greenbelt East Trail will hold a

monthly stakeholders call with MDOT, the City of Greenbelt and Prince George’s County officials. Interested residents and commuters may get more information via the trail group website at [greenbeltnasatrail.org](http://greenbeltnasatrail.org) or by email at [info@greenbeltnasatrail.org](mailto:info@greenbeltnasatrail.org).



## STEM Fair Winners



Yashasri Gouda (left), a student at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, clinched the first-place grand award at the 76th Annual Prince George’s Area Science Fair and will advance to the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair in May.



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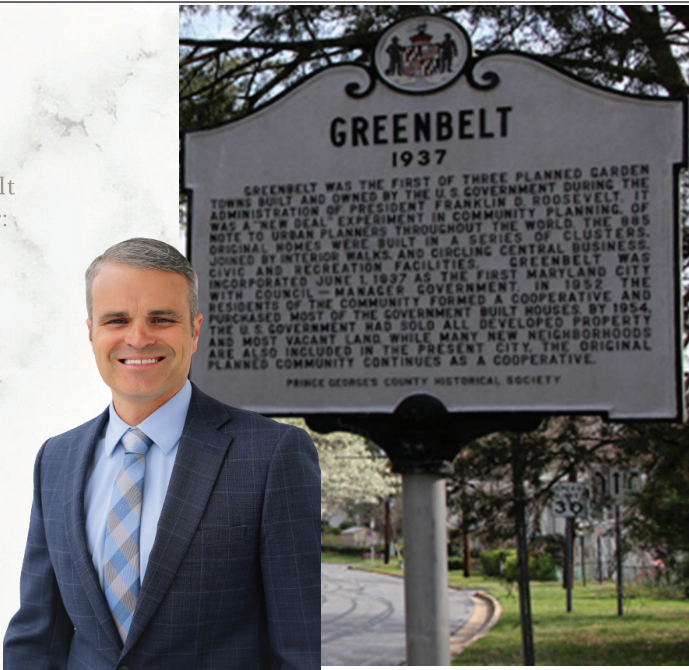


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APOLLO continued from page 1

couldn't even stand up ... they didn't have the energy to do it," says Rivas-Flores. Apollo's back legs had atrophied.

While Bruno, the healthy dog, went on to Prince George's County Animal Shelter, Apollo and Zeus were evidence in the animal cruelty case that concluded in November with several charges against the owner. Zeus was adopted by one of the Greenbelt police officers who got to know him and lives outside Prince George's County (Zeus is a pitbull). No longer evidence, Apollo, suspected to be a hound-Great Dane mix, is still living at Greenbelt's shelter and is now free to be adopted.

He's sweet, friendly, house-trained and leash trained. He doesn't really bark and he's smart and food-motivated, which helps with training, says Rivas-Flores. He could run up to five miles with you but he's also happy to nap on a couch. "He's very adaptable," says Rivas-Flores. He's affectionate and not reactive to people. He's selective about which dogs he likes, however, and would like to find a home where he's the only dog.

At not even a year and a half, "his whole life has either been locked up in a kennel in someone's apartment starving, here in our facility, which is better but he's still just in a kennel for the most part throughout the day [and] for seven weeks he was in a foster home," says Rivas-Flores. He did well in the home but had to be returned to the shelter due to a family emergency. He also made great strides curbing his reactivity to other dogs while there. He hasn't had the opportunity to interact with many other dogs so far, so he's still learning, but the animal control officers have seen him do well with some dogs close-up.

Apollo's favorite pastimes include long walks, playing with toys, lounging around and getting lots of snuggles. He recently had his first swimming lesson, donated by Canine Fitness Center in Crownsville.

Those interested in fostering or adopting Apollo or meeting some of the other adoptable dogs at the shelter, email [animalcontrol@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:animalcontrol@greenbeltmd.gov) or call 301-474-6124 for more information. All adoptions are by appointment at this time.



Apollo recently had the opportunity to go swimming for the first time.

- Photos courtesy Greenbelt Animal Shelter



Apollo shakes a paw with Walter.

PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW



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# With Total Eclipse in their Hearts, Greenbelters Trek Far for Totality

by Rasheeda Childress

While many Greenbelters gathered in the best spots around the city to glimpse the partial eclipse in our region, some families had hearts that would only accept a total eclipse. At least a dozen residents traversed the United States and Canada so they could be in a city where the total eclipse could be seen.

Among them was Aileen Kroll, who has lived in Greenbelt for more than a decade. After seeing the partial eclipse in the area in 2017, she decided she wanted to see the whole shebang this year. Not owning a car, Kroll was looking to travel with others. Initially, she was looking to tag along with a group going to Ohio. But as things got closer, she rode with a neighbor and his daughter as they drove to New York to see the celestial event.

“It was really a thrilling experience and well worth the long drive,” Kroll said, noting they watched the eclipse in Plattsburgh, about an eight-hour drive from Greenbelt. Barbara Glick had wanted to go with a group, as well, but had trouble finding friends and relatives who wanted to make the trip.

“I almost did not go,” she said. “But I’m so glad that did not stop me from missing out on a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I will remember that lesson for the rest of my life.” Wanting to have both an environmentally friendly and social experience, Glick took the train to Sandusky, Ohio, to witness the totality. The good news was she found lots of conversation partners both on the train and in the city, where she played tourist before the big event. She got a walking tour of Underground Railroad sites as well as the city’s architecture.

Kroll also took time for sight-seeing of a different kind. An avid nature lover, she camped outside and hiked the weekend before the eclipse. On Monday, Kroll rejoined her neighbor early in the morning, as they’d heard their viewing location would be crowded.

Rumors, apparently. “There was nobody there,” she said with a laugh, about their very early arrival to beat a nonexistent crowd.

**‘Mesmerized’**

Councilmember Kristen Weaver, who works at Goddard, also headed out of town for the eclipse. For work, she visited Hot Springs, Ark., where she talked about the eclipse at schools and libraries. On eclipse Monday, however, she got to watch the totality with her husband and relatives on his side of the family in Arkansas.

How long a total eclipse lasts varies based on multiple factors, including the location from where it is being viewed. Arkansas saw one of the longer periods of totality.

“I had experienced the 2017 eclipse in Nebraska and that was much shorter and also much cloudier,” Weaver said. “So this was just incredible because it was clear skies and you could see the totality for over four minutes. It was amazing.”

Up in New York, Kroll didn’t have as long for totality (about three-and-a-half minutes), but she enjoyed every moment of the



Aileen Kroll (right) traveled to New York with her neighbor Don Solomon and his daughter Meera.

event, watching through eclipse glasses from the moon’s first encroachment through totality and all the way until the moon passed to the other side.

“From 2:15 until 4:45, I was mesmerized,” she said. “It was such an incredible experience of watching bits and pieces of the sun disappear.”

A few other people had actually shown up to Plattsburgh’s viewing spot by the time the total eclipse was near. That made the collective experience more memorable.

“At some point, it becomes the total eclipse and everyone around me, we all involuntarily let out this incredible [gasp] sound because it was breathtaking,” Kroll said. “It was blackness surrounded by this beautiful edge of red magenta.”

Weaver agrees that the collective viewing of an eclipse is great both because there’s that communal anticipation and awe, but also because it brings people together.

“There’s a lot of things that divide us these days,” she said, “but this is something that everybody was experiencing and enjoying together.”

In Ohio, Glick got slightly more total eclipse time than New York, but she would have happily watched more if it had been available.

“Those three minutes and 45 seconds of my life went by way too fast,” said Glick, who peered at the eclipse from the shores of Lake Erie.

The Sickle family watched the solar eclipse in the path of totality at Mosquito Lake Park in Ohio.

Further down the banks of Lake Erie and a bit more inland, Greenbelters Valentina Aquila and family were watching the eclipse from Pennsylvania. Aquila said seeing a total eclipse was on her bucket list, so in January, she and her family decided to travel to Allegheny National Forest for the weekend and viewed the eclipse on Monday. The good news was that they got to see all of the totality; the bad news: clouds.

“The eclipse itself was won-



E.J. Reynolds enjoys an event-appropriate snack while awaiting totality at Grimsby Wetlands Park, Grimsby, Ontario, Canada.

derful,” she said. “It really looked and felt like dusk. We were near a pond and we could hear the frogs becoming louder. We were only able to see a couple of stars due to the clouds, but it didn’t spoil the moment.”

Clouds were also a factor for Anna Bedford-Dillow, who traveled to Ontario, Canada, with her husband Barrett, an aerospace engineer at NASA, and their three children.

“The day of the eclipse was really cloudy,” Bedford-Dillow said. “Nonetheless we could see amazing though brief glimpses during the eclipse. The highlight for us was the experience of several minutes of darkness at totality. It was something I’d never experienced.”

Bedford-Dillow felt a lot of joy seeing her children’s awe at watching the world darken during the middle of the afternoon, and then get bright again.

Whether the viewer was young or more seasoned, the eclipse was an experience. For Kroll, she can’t wait for another one. “The partial is cool, but the total is breathtaking in a way that few experiences in life are,” she said, adding that she wants to see another one. “You know how there are tornado chasers – people who chase tornadoes? I’m thinking that I’m ready to become an eclipse chaser. The next one is in 2026. It’s going to be in Spain.”



The Sickle Family watched the solar eclipse in the path of totality at Mosquito Lake Park in Ohio. They wisely brought their favorite reading material along.



The Bedford-Dillow children practice using an eclipse viewer in Niagara Falls, Ontario.



Totality captured from New York



At the Grimsby Wetlands in Ontario, Canada, E.J. Reynolds was able to see totality through clearings in the clouds.